जा रहे हैं। अगर नहीं लगती है तो क्या करने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : सभापति जी, राष्ट्रपति जिया ने पहले सन् 1985 में एक बयान में यह कहा कि Not a blade of grass grows there. उसी में आपने पढ़ा है प्रैस रिपोर्ट. उसी में लिखा है। 1986 में उन्होंने कहा कि यह नो-मैन्ज लैंड है, अब उन्होंने और वाक्य कहे हैं जिसकी अभी आपने चर्चा की, हमने यह कहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान का हिस्सा है। दो बार मीटिंग हो चुकी है डिफेंस सेक्रेटरी के स्तर पर, प्राइम मिनिस्टर और प्रेसीडेंट जिया की बात हुई थी जब प्रेसीडेंट जिया दिल्ली आये थे और सियाचिन की बात की भी चर्चा हुई थी। उसके बाद दो बार डिफेंस सेक्रेटरी मिल चुके है। हम लोगों ने कोशिश कि हैं इसका रास्ता निकालें। हमारी हमेशा कोशिश रहती है कि शान्तिमय ढंग से कोई रास्ता निकले और शिमला समझौते के अन्तर्गत वह रास्ता निकले लेकिन जैसा मैंने कहा कि अगर हमला होगा तो उसका जवाब हम देंगे और इसलिए कहा कि सितम्बर-अक्टूबर में हमले हुए और उसका जवाब देना है इसलिये यह कहने की आवश्यकता है कि कोई ऐसी चीज न हो जिससे बाद में फिर से वहां तनाव बढ़कर यह रूप धारण कर सके।

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, everyone will agree with the well-known stand of the Government of India that all bilateral issues should be resolved peacefully. As the hon. Minister also said Pakistan is also bound by it in terms of the Simla Agreement. Yet Pakistan believes more in breaking the Agreement than abiding by it. But in my opinion, the answer given by the hon. Minister in reply to the question is laconic. In view of the fiery statement made by the Pakistan President that Pakistan is engaged in a holy war in Siachen, I would like to know what specific action is being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of India.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, strong words do not break bones and the fact of the matter is that we have taken note of the statement of Pakistan President. We have also made it clear that in case there is any attack, Pakistan will get a befitting reply.

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : सभापति महोदय, मैं रक्षा मंत्री से जानना चाहता हूं जो जिला के बारे में उन्होंने चर्चा की, जिया साहब का ब्यान अभी काश्मीर के बारे में जो आया हैं वह सियाचिन से भी ज्यादा खतरनाक है इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया उनकी हुई ?

श्री सभापति : कवश्चन तो सियाचिन के बारे में हैं ?

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : वह सियाचिन से भी खतरनाक है, जिया का बयान।

श्री के० सी० पन्त : क्या आपने एलाउ किया है ?

श्री सभापति : हां कह दीजिए, उसका तो वही जवाब है। वह जनाते हैं जवाब भी।

श्री के० सी० पन्त : जवाब वही है जो आपने दिया।

Import of Luxury items

*230. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item in 'Sunday Mail' dated January 24—30, 1988 under the caption "Huge VCR" imports on the anvil; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to review the policy of indiscriminate imports of such consumer and luxury items which throttle the indigenous development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC

ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government Policy does not permit import of consumer and luxury electronic items as per the General Import Trade Control Policy.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what general policy he is talking about in terms of what is contained in the Red Book. The thrust of the Press report was that the imports are on Government account, on behalf of the Department of Electronics. Is it a fact? If so, how are you going to protect the indigenous industry?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: It is not a fact. ET & T has not placed any order for VCRs so far, nor has the Department of Electronics given any permission for importing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Defalcation of lakhs of dollars by the employees of the Indian High Commission in Singapore

*227. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some employees of the Indian High Commission in Singapore had defalcated several lakhs of dollars;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Defalcation of Government funds amounting to Singapore Dollars 1,42,231.91 (equivalent to Rs. 6,05,390.55) had taken place in the High Commission of India, Singapore, upto May, 1985, when a locally recruited employee of Singhpore nationality, Smt. P. Kannan, was working as Cashier in the Mission.

(c) The services of Smt. Kannan were terminated on 29-5-85. She has been absconding since that time. Steps to trace her were made by the authorities concerned both in Singapore and in India, but these were not successful. The investigating authorities have since advised that it is not possible to pursue the case in the absenence of the main accused. Consequently, it has not been possible to initiate steps to recover the defalcated amount.

Review of Anti-Poverty programmes

*231. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anti-poverty programmes under implementation have been reviewed recently and whether their impact on the economically weaker sections has been studied;

(b) if so, what are the results thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the drawbacks in the implementation of the anti-poverty programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The three major anti-poverty programmes under implementation are : Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). No All-India studies on RLEGP have been completed as yet. A number of evaluation studies have been, however, completed in respect of IRDP and NREP during the last 3-4 years. In the case of IRDP, concurrent evaluation